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STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND COORDINATION OF EFFORTS TO STUDY, MITIGATE AND MINIMIZE THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE CHERNOBYL DISASTER

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. Since the submission of the Secretary-General's report (A/47/322-E/1992/102) on the strengthening of international cooperation and coordination of efforts to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl accident in July 1992, there have been further relevant developments which merit consideration by the General Assembly. This report summarizes the most important of those developments and presents recommendations for further action to stimulate and coordinate assistance to the regions in Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine, which continue to suffer severely from the effects and after-effects of the catastrophe at Chernobyl. Information is also provided about action being taken and proposed.

II. REVIEW OF THE CURRENT SITUATION

2. Following reports received from medical authorities in Belarus that a significant increase had been observed in the incidence of thyroid cancer among children, the World Health Organization (WHO) undertook a mission to the area in June 1992. The team of international experts comprising the mission confirmed the observations of the local authorities, noting that the situation was disquieting: the particular form of malignancy was virulent and had appeared earlier than expected.

3. In the light of these findings as well as the need to adapt the International Programme on the Health Effects of the Chernobyl Accident (IPHECA) to the new political circumstances in the three States concerned, the Ministry of Health of Ukraine hosted a meeting of the IPHECA Management Committee during the first week of November 1992. During the same period an international conference on health aspects of the Chernobyl disaster was held, at which new information and the results of recent research were presented.

4. In order to benefit from the presence in Kiev of government representatives and WHO representatives, other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, the United Nations Coordinator of International Cooperation for Chernobyl, in concurrence with the Government of Ukraine, convened a meeting of the Inter-Agency Task Force for Chernobyl.

5. On 3 and 4 November, Mr. Erik Jensen, Deputy Coordinator for Chernobyl, held meetings with the authorities of the affected States, including, from Belarus, Mr. I. Kenik, First Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the State Committee on Chernobyl, and Mr. N. Krasenko, Deputy Minister of Health; from the Russian Federation, Mr. V. Vosnyak, Chairman of the State Committee for Chernobyl, and Mr. A. Tsyb, Director of the Obminsk Medical Institute, Ministry of Health; and from Ukraine, Mr. G. Gotovchits, Minister for Chernobyl, Mr. B. Prister, First Deputy Minister for Chernobyl, Mr. A. Stolyorov, Chief of International Relations, Ministry of Chernobyl, Mr. Y. Spizhenko, Minister of Health, Mr. V. Ponomarenko, Deputy Minister of

Health, and Ms. L. Bobylyova, Chernobyl Programme of the Ministry of Health. Discussions focused on priority areas for assistance, on the continuous and urgent need for resource mobilization and on the identification of mechanisms for more effective coordination. These meetings culminated in the drafting and signing by the responsible authorities of the affected States of a document indicating the priorities for assistance. They are:

(a) Health: creation of medical centres for examination and treatment of children and adults; equipping of medical institutions in the contaminated zone;

(b) Economic rehabilitation: formulation of plans, definition of special economic conditions and advantages for foreign investors;

(c) Socio-psychological rehabilitation: creation of centres for children and teenagers;

(d) Food and agriculture: production of uncontaminated food products and products containing special additives.

6. The Task Force meeting was attended by representatives of the following organizations of the United Nations system: United Nations Secretariat, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), WHO, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Also present were representatives of the Governments of Finland and Ukraine, and observers from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the Commission of the European Communities, Ben Gurion University (Israel), Curry and Brown (subcontractors for Chernobyl remediation under the United Kingdom Know-How Fund), the International Agency for Research on Cancer (Lyon, France) and the Sasakawa Memorial Foundation. Current activities of the Task Force and future strategies in the implementation of its responsibilities were discussed, as were bilateral, multilateral and private-sector financing and coordination issues.

7. The Task Force decided that full account should be taken of the list of priorities drawn up collectively by the Ministers of the three affected States, and that these priorities could be considered as encompassing most of the ongoing and proposed projects, which include, for example, UNESCO's projects on socio-psychological rehabilitation and area development proposals; UNIDO's industrial development proposals in the context of the second priority; and WHO's International Programme on the Health Effects of the Chernobyl Accident considered as the umbrella programme for health-related projects.

8. The Task Force also believed that the coordination and management of Chernobyl programmes and projects should increasingly become the responsibility of the three Governments, in support of which comprehensive

databases on related projects should be developed. Meanwhile, membership of the Task Force could usefully be expanded to include external funding and implementing organizations from without as well as within the United Nations system.

III. CONCLUSION

9. It follows from the priority areas agreed by the Governments of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine and the related deliberations of the Task Force that action should now be concentrated on a focused range of priority areas. These cover: the obvious need for attention to health, with special concern for the health of the children who are growing up in the shadow of the disaster; socio-psychological rehabilitation, which remains crucially necessary to restore the confidence of people in rebuilding their lives and a future for their families; and the production of safe and sufficient food and crops in as wide an area as can be sustained or restored to agricultural productivity, as well as the economic rehabilitation which is essential to the prospects of all three States.

10. To those ends specific projects are now being further elaborated and costed. It is hoped to secure financing through this renewed appeal to Member States and the contributions of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. An approach is planned to corporations and companies that may be willing to furnish material and other assistance and fund-raising projects are also under consideration. Effective implementation of these activities will depend on the Governments concerned and the continuing coordinating and guiding role of the United Nations at least for the immediate future.

ANNEX

Summary of action taken and proposed a/

I. UNITED NATIONS RELATED ORGANIZATIONS

1. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has provided iodized oil capsules and ultrasound equipment for the treatment of iodine deficiency disorders among children in areas affected by the Chernobyl disaster, and has expressed its willingness to provide additional support in the area of child health, education and training.

2. The Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) has called upon the business community and public organizations to contribute in the implementation of the Joint Plan of assistance, for which ECE's potential could also be tapped. In this context, mention was made of the "Sarcophagus" competition.

3. The International Labour Organisation (ILO) has signed an agreement with the Ministry of Labour of Germany concerning technical support for social reforms in Eastern Europe. Two pilot projects will be started in Belarus before the end of 1992, one in the area affected by Chernobyl. Funding is estimated at US$ 30,000 in 1992, with possible additional funding for 1993. The purpose is the training of rural animators promoting small private entrepreneurs producing goods and services for local markets. The Government of Belarus is committed to support these two projects by providing technical training and start-up credits.

4. Some 30 projects of the UNESCO Chernobyl Programme have been launched. These include the establishment of four pilot community centres for the psychological rehabilitation of the affected population, one in the Ukraine, two in Belarus and one in the Russian Federation. Construction and operating plans have been submitted to the respective authorities and work will commence upon their final approval. A full-time coordinator has been approved, who will also supervise development of the International Centre for Psychological Rehabilitation in Kiev. These projects are being funded from Trust Fund contributions of the Government of Canada and German non-governmental organizations.

5. UNESCO is developing a project to create an economic and social development area, of approximately 300 square kilometres, in the Russian Federation, which aims to provide employment and housing for displaced populations and establish basic educational and social facilities.

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a/ Information about action taken or proposed which was received at or subsequent to the November meeting at Kiev. Information provided by the Government of Ukraine will appear as addendum 2 to the report.

6. Involvement of WHO relates principally to the International Programme on the Health Effects of the Chernobyl Accident (IPHECA) which was initiated in 1990 and endorsed by a World Health Assembly resolution the following year. Detailed plans were then elaborated by groups from the three affected Republics of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and through assistance of several scientific advisory groups. The implementation of the Programme began in January 1992. Following the dissolution of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics the organizational structure of IPHECA underwent some changes. A Management Committee was formed comprising representatives of the Ministries of Health of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine, representatives of donor countries, and WHO. The first meeting of the Committee was held in Kiev in November 1992.

7. IPHECA is funded by voluntary contributions received so far from the Governments of Japan (US$ 20 million) and Finland (US$ 40,000) and some other donations, including contributions in kind. At this stage pilot projects are being implemented covering five health concerns: thyroid, haematology, brain damage in-utero, oral health and epidemiological registry. These projects will continue into 1993 and 1994.

8. A matter of special concern at the present time is the sharp rise in incidence of thyroid cancer among children in Belarus since 1990. By the end of 1992 the total number of excess cases may surpass 150. WHO has concentrated on this problem since November 1991 through acquisition of ultrasound instruments and immunodiagnostic kits, missions to identify the needs and verify the diagnosis, and organization, jointly with Belarusian authorities, of an international conference on the subject.

9. Several other health-related projects are being implemented in the Chernobyl area, including those funded by the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the Council of Europe, the Sasakawa Foundation, and the Governments of France, Germany and the Netherlands.

10. WHO considers it important that IPHECA continue for 10 to 15 more years at least in order to study adequately the longer-term health effects, but additional funds will be required.

11. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO), following a decision of its Tenth Congress, acceded to the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident and to the Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency. As stipulated in the first of these Conventions, special arrangements were made between WMO and IAEA regarding the use of the WMO Global Telecommunication System for the exchange of radiological and meteorological data. In the field of hydrology, WMO has prepared a manual on hydrological aspects of accidental pollution of water bodies. The aim of this is to provide guidance to hydrological services and water authorities on the role to be played in minimizing the impact of accidental pollution, including the release of contaminants following a nuclear accident.

12. UNIDO has proposed an industrial survey in the three affected countries, with the objective of preparing an industrial development programme to alleviate the consequences of the Chernobyl accident. Other pipeline projects involve the setting-up of small and medium-sized enterprises for people resettled from the affected areas; prefabricated housing materials and investment needs for baby-food production.

13. The conclusions and recommendations of the International Chernobyl Project, for which IAEA acted as secretariat, were approved by an International Advisory Committee in March 1991 and presented at an International Conference in Vienna in May of the same year. Experts from 25 countries and 7 international agencies participated and the project remains the only United Nations sponsored technical assessment of the radiological situation in the affected States. While thorough within its defined scope and objective, the report attracted some controversy due to the many sensitive and complex issues surrounding the subject.

14. The project relating to the use of Caesium Binders to reduce the radiocaesium contamination of milk and meat of grazing animals was initiated within the International Chernobyl Project, whereby contacts were established between relevant scientists and government officials in the affected States and in the West. Controlled experiments, extensive field trials, training sessions and technology transfer were arranged in the affected areas and a report was presented to the Governments of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine in June 1992. It was found to be a highly cost-effective measure to reduce food contamination, and the results of the trials were extremely positive. They have been formally accepted by the three Governments and undertakings to implement the technique on a large scale have been given. The project is being implemented by the FAO/IAEA Joint Division and the IAEA Division of Nuclear Safety, with funds made available through the United Nations by the Government of Norway.

15. FAO and IAEA have collaborated in producing a draft report entitled "Agricultural countermeasures following an accidental release of radionuclides into the environment". This report will be made available in both English and Russian during 1993.

16. Within the framework of the IAEA 1993/94 programme and budget, a new subprogramme on the "Radiological consequences of the Chernobyl accident" has been established. While the primary focus of IAEA's new work in this area is on nuclear safety, in collaboration with the Commission of the European Communities and other organizations, future follow-up activities planned are technical reports on the status of retrospective dosimetry of liquidators, evacuees and other high-risk groups, and on radiological protection in the exclusion zone.

II. GOVERNMENTAL AND OTHER ASSISTANCE

A. Information provided by the Government of Belarus regarding assistance from non-United Nations sources

17. The sum of 50 million Austrian schillings was donated for the construction of a children's onco-haematological centre in Minsk and 10 million Austrian schillings was donated by the Austrian charitable organization "Hilfswerk" for the purchase of medical technology and equipment for the centre.

18. The sum of 10 million guilders was donated by the Government of the Netherlands for the establishment of a consultative and diagnostic polyclinic in Gomel.

19. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies donated 3.5 million German marks for the purchase of medical equipment and medical supplies.

20. The Ministry of Internal Affairs of Land North Rhine-Westphalia (Germany) donated 1.1 million German marks for the purpose of equipping a children's surgical centre in Minsk.

21. The Sasakawa Foundation (Japan) donated more than US$ 1 million for the purchase of dosimetric and medical equipment.

22. The International Organization for Aviation Assistance, with headquarters at Leipzig, Germany, donated US$ 500,000.

23. The Government of Italy provided 2,000 tons of lemons and 800 tons of olive oil, having a total value of more than 220 million roubles.

24. The Government of the United States of America sent 3,500 tons of food through the charitable organization "Cityhope International". The same organization delivered medical supplies having a total value of US$ 17 million.

Information on goods received by the Republic of Belarus from sources of international humanitarian aid as at 1 October 1992 (since 1 December 1990), (tons)

	Total	Of which					
		Foodstuffs	Medical supplies	Equipment	Clothing and footwear	Mixed consignments	Other
Republic of Belarus as a whole	13 129.9	9 344.9	540.9	243.2	364.2	2 507.8	128.9
By regions:							
Brest	1 382.8	984.8	21.0	61.1	86.8	227.1	2.0
Vitebsk	1 060.5	635.1	68.1	62.3	17.0	246.6	11.4
Gomel	4 223.0	3 355.5	192.9	45.3	83.8	523.0	22.5
Grodno	865.3	552.2	27.6	5.5	81.8	194.5	3.7
Minsk (city)	2 106.6	1 049.6	107.7	42.0	34.9	838.6	33.8
Minsk (region)	1 347.4	941.5	57.9	22.8	53.7	230.2	51.3
Mogilev	2 144.3	1 326.2	45.7	4.2	6.2	257.8	4.2
Donated by							
Argentina	0.2	0.2	-	-	-	-	-
Australia	0.2	-	0.1	0.1	-	-	-
Austria	310.2	267.8	-	15.6	1.3	24.5	1.0
Belgium	141.6	133.4	0.5	5.1	1.5	1.1	-
Canada	31.5	5.0	25.2	0.7	0.6	-	-
China	4.2	4.2	-	-	-	-	-
Cyprus	201.9	201.9	-	-	-	-	-
Denmark	9.2	-	3.2	-	6.0	-	-
Finland	2.9	1.2	1.1	0.4	-	-	0.2
France	38.7	7.4	24.1	0.3	0.1	6.8	-
Germany	8 110.3	4 829.5	368.6	206.0	290.3	2 294.9	121.0
Hungary	54.7	54.5	0.2	-	-	-	-
India	51.9	6.4	45.4	-	-	-	0.1
Israel	1.5	-	1.5	-	-	-	-
Italy	190.7	171.9	2.0	2.4	11.9	0.5	2.0
Japan	10.4	5.8	2.3	1.7	-	0.6	-
Netherlands	72.0	68.0	2.6	0.2	0.5	0.7	-
Norway	0.5	0.5	-	-	-	-	-
Poland	157.8	72.0	5.1	-	32.9	47.4	0.4
Spain	16.0	15.7	-	-	0.3	-	-
Sweden	27.4	21.9	0.3	-	1.5	1.1	2.6
Switzerland	36.2	16.8	1.9	0.2	-	17.3	-
Syria	0.1	-	0.1	-	-	-	-
United Kingdom	7.3	6.5	0.4	0.2	0.2	-	-
United States of America	2 398.5	2 217.2	56.1	10.3	13.0	100.3	1.6
European Economic Community	1 199.9	1 199.9	-	-	-	-	-
Private individuals	54.1	37.2	0.2	-	4.1	12.6	-

The Gomel region has received 336,500 disposable hypodermic syringes, the Mogilev region 145,000 and the Minsk region 440,400 from sources of foreign humanitarian aid.

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B. Information provided by the Government of the Russian Federation

25. In the first half of 1991, the Government of Argentina organized rest and rehabilitation holidays for about 40 children from the Russian Federation.

26. Since 1990, the All-Australian Foundation for Assistance to the Victims of Chernobyl has made five deliveries to all three of the affected States of foodstuffs, consumer goods, medicines, wheelchairs, and medical equipments, with a total value of US$ 5 million. In 1991, the Scouts Association of the State of Victoria hosted approximately 150 children from districts contaminated by radiation in Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine.

27. In 1992, 554 children from the Russian Federation were received by Belgium for recuperative holidays.

28. The Government of Bulgaria has assisted in various ways. In 1992 equipment for a mobile radiological laboratory was donated to the Russian Federation. Over 1991-1992, the Federation for Friendship with the Peoples of Russia and the Commonwealth of Independent States arranged visits to Bulgarian health resorts for 500 children from affected areas of Belarus and Ukraine. The company "Farmakhim" donated medicines of a total value of US$ 1 million to the Russian Academy of Medical Sciences for the treatment of Chernobyl victims.

29. In 1992 the Government of Canada organized holidays in Canada for several Russian children.

30. Since March 1990, the people of Cuba have provided free medical treatment and recuperation facilities for approximately 2,000 children from the Russian Federation suffering from consequences of the accident.

31. Through its social organizations Cyprus every year organizes holidays and treatment for groups of 20 to 25 children from the Russian Federation.

32. Under the auspices of Czechoslovak charitable and public organizations, approximately 1,000 children from the area affected by the Chernobyl accident have visited Czechoslovakia each year, for rest and recuperation.

33. Under the patronage of the Government of Denmark, 500 children from affected regions of the Russian Federation recuperated and received treatment in Denmark.

34. In 1992, a Finnish scientific instruments company donated an all-weather radiation dosimeter to the International Mobile Radiological Laboratory to supplement its equipment.

35. The State Secretariat for Health and Humanitarian Policy of the Government of France took steps to establish a five-year programme of assistance to the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics early in 1990.

The proposals, drafted on the basis of an exploratory mission to the affected areas, would entail the allocation of 10 million French francs over a three-year period. To date, equipment for blood analysis has been donated to a haematological centre in Moscow. Two private French firms partially financed and equipped the International Mobile Radiological Laboratory and donated equipment to measure the radioactive content of food products, respectively. In operations such as "Solidarity with the Children of Chernobyl", holidays in France were provided for a considerable number of children from the affected area.

36. In 1991, as part of the efforts of the Federal Government of Germany, the examination of 150,000 inhabitants of the Bryansk region was undertaken, in the Russian-German Chernobyl Measurement Programme. In the second stage of this programme measurements are being continued, and the German Government has donated vehicles equipped with measuring apparatus and camping vans. In 1992 holidays in Germany were provided for 99 children from the Bryansk region.

37. Greek social organizations have provided holidays and treatment for groups of up to 50 children from the affected area of the Russian Federation.

38. The assistance provided by the Government of Hungary is primarily directed towards the organization of holidays for children from the affected area. The foundation "the Legacy of Chernobyl" has so far provided holidays in Hungary for 310 children.

39. Assistance to minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster valued at US$ 100,000 was sent by the Government of India to the Russian Federation and used for the purchase of medicines.

40. At the invitation of the Government of the Republic of Ireland, several groups of children from the Chernobyl area have had holidays in that country.

41. Israel has, through private channels, provided holidays for groups of children from affected areas.

42. The Government of Italy has organized recuperation holidays for more than 1,000 children from the affected regions of Russia and for the children of those who took part in the elimination of the consequences of the accident.

43. In September 1991, the Governments of Japan and the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics signed a Memorandum providing for the implementation of projects to minimize the health effects of the Chernobyl disaster. In December 1990, the Government of Japan adopted an assistance programme providing for the allocation of 2.6 billion yen through the World Health Organization for these purposes (see para. 7 above). In addition, donations of medicines and medical equipment, foodstuffs, clothing and money from a number of political and public organizations, local authorities, representatives of the business community and individual citizens of Japan have been dispatched by various channels to numerous beneficiaries in the disaster area.

44. In September 1992, the Government of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya donated US$ 1 million to the Russian Federation. These funds were primarily used to address problems relating to milk products in the contaminated districts.

45. The New Zealand assistance foundation "For the Children of Chernobyl" raised funds for the purchase of a shipment of 500 kg of medicines which were dispatched to the region in December 1991.

46. The assistance provided by the Government of Poland has been primarily geared towards children. Holidays in Poland were organized for more than 20,000 children from areas affected by the Chernobyl accident, approximately 15,000 of them coming from Belarus, 2,000 from the Russian Federation and 3,000 from Ukraine. Polish pharmaceutical companies have provided humanitarian assistance, in the form of medicines and vitamins, for children's institutions. In 1992, Poland delivered a variety of children's goods, worth more than US$ 50,000, to the Bryansk region. The Children's Christian Fund, whose head offices are in Warsaw, helped provide hospitals in the Bryansk region with equipment to analyse the functioning of the thyroid gland in newborn infants. The Polish company "Interatominstrument" has contributed towards the cost of equipment for the International Mobile Radiological Laboratory.

47. The Government of the Russian Federation adopted a decision on the provision of aid to Belarus in 1992 to an amount of 7,141 million roubles.

48. The Syrian Arab Republic has, through private channels, provided holidays for groups of children from the affected region.

49. Tunisia, also through private channels, has organized holidays in this country for groups of children from districts affected by the accident.

50. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is participating both at the government level and through social organizations in the efforts of the European Community and other international organizations to overcome the consequences of the Chernobyl accident. At the invitation of British children's organizations, children from the affected regions spent a holiday in the United Kingdom in the summer of 1991. Several business organizations are taking part in measures to prevent and eliminate the consequences of natural and technological disasters. At the beginning of March 1991, the President of the Russian Federation for Emergency Situations visited London on the invitation of the British Nuclear Forum. The United Kingdom has expressed an interest in participating in the project of creating a "Russian economic and social development area" as part of the UNESCO Chernobyl Programme.

51. Assistance provided by the Government of the United States of America is mainly in the form of general humanitarian aid to the Russian Federation, part of which is sent to the regions affected by the Chernobyl accident (medicine and food). The bulk of assistance, however, is provided by various non-governmental organizations and private individuals. This includes medical

equipment, medicine, training of personnel, leisure activities for and treatment of children. In 1991, the most active and substantial aid was provided by the organization American CARE, which delivered 109 tons of medical equipment. Assistance was also provided by Operation Provide Hope. Through the international organization "Haematologists of the World", cooperation was organized with the American Methodist Church, yielding a donation of medicine and materials of a value of US$ 300,000 to the Russian Clinical Children's Hospital and the Institute of Child Haematology. Hospitals in the Bryansk and Tula regions of the Russian Federation were sent facsimile machines and technical means and equipment for the accounting, planning and analysis of operations. In 1991, the Church of the Holy Resurrection in Chicago collected US$ 18,000 with which multivitamins were purchased and sent to children's hospitals in the Tula, Orel and Bryansk regions. The American organization "Chernobyl Aid" provided a free medical examination for one child in New York and organized a holiday for 40 children from the Bryansk region in Alaska in August 1991.

C. Information on bilateral assistance

52. The Radiation Protection Research Action of the Nuclear Fission Safety Programme of the Commission of the European Communities is involved in a series of research activities associated with Chernobyl. These fall under an Agreement for International Collaboration on the Consequences of the Chernobyl Accident made between the European Atomic Energy Community, represented by the Commission of the European Communities, and the State Committee of the Republic of Belarus for problems of the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, the State Committee of the Russian Federation for the social protection and rehabilitation of the territories which were damaged by the Chernobyl and other nuclear power stations accidents, and the Ministry of Ukraine on affairs of protection of the population from the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl power plant, which was signed on 23 June 1992.

53. In 1991, five experimental collaboration projects were initiated, dealing with the following topics: evaluation, by theoretical and experimental means, of the extent and magnitude of recontamination of the environment by radioactive material, including hot particles; the transfer of radionuclides through the terrestrial ecosystems to agricultural products and livestock; the modelling and study of the mechanisms of the transfer of radioactive material from the terrestrial ecosystem to water bodies, and its behaviour therein; evaluation and development of decontamination strategies for a range of ecological situations; and the behaviour of radionuclides in natural and semi-natural ecosystems.

54. Two joint study projects have also been initiated dealing with (a) development of computerized systems (software) for predicting the radiological impact of accidents for decision-making in case of off-site emergency and (b) development and application of methods of establishment of intervention levels for the introduction of countermeasures in the event of a

nuclear accident. The budget allocated in 1991 for these studies was 2.3 million ECU; in 1992 this has been increased to 3.9 million ECU.

55. In 1992 two experimental collaboration projects and one joint study project dealing with health studies are being initiated with an initial budget of 650,000 ECU. These studies are concerned with: biological dosimetry including cytogenetics; epidemiological investigations including dose assessment and dose reconstruction; and treatment of accident victims.

56. The Government of Denmark has contributed 2,250,000 Danish krone to projects in Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine for the safe growing of potatoes in radioactive soil.

57. The Government of Liechtenstein placed 100,000 Swiss francs at the disposal of the Swiss non-governmental organization "Caritas" to help alleviate consequences of the Chernobyl disaster.

58. The Polish Red Cross has since 1989 provided assistance in kind to Chernobyl victims valued at 1,055 million zlotys. It has supplied 83.6 tons of medicine, food and other commodities to the affected region. In 1991, the Polish Red Cross received 717 children for holidays; the value of services rendered amounted to 1,567 million zlotys. The non-governmental organization Caritas-Poland received 12,000 children in Poland in 1991 and 4,500 in 1992.

59. The Government of Sweden has so far set aside 40 million Swedish krona for bilateral cooperation on nuclear and radiation safety (mainly technical and structural and safety improvements of nuclear facilities in the Baltic States), and an additional 33 million Swedish krona to international research centres in Moscow and Kiev for nuclear technicians.

60. The Government of the United Arab Emirates provided assistance in cash in the sum of US$ 70,000 on 25 March 1992 to help alleviate the consequences of the Chernobyl accident.

III. ADDITIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL CONTRIBUTIONS

61. The Federation of International Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies initiated a Chernobyl Humanitarian Assistance and Rehabilitation Programme in 1990, with additional support from the Red Cross Societies in Germany, the United Kingdom and Finland. During 1991-1992, the programme has provided six mobile laboratories (two in each of the affected States) to assist in early diagnosis of irradiation-related health problems, and to alleviate the psychological stress associated with uncertainty as to health effects and upheavals in living conditions. The programme, which is managed by the National Red Cross Societies of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine, is aimed primarily at children, elderly and resettled people and the "liquidators". The Federation is attempting to raise 880,000 Swiss francs for work in 1993.

62. The Sasakawa Foundation of Japan has undertaken measures to help alleviate the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster. In February 1990, representatives of the Foundation visited Moscow and donated 1 million disposable syringes. At the end of 1990, the Foundation adopted a five-year assistance programme for the three affected Republics to a total value of US$ 30 million. The Foundation has set up five mobile diagnostic centres, to be used for periodic examinations of the population in the areas where they live. These have been donated to medical centres in contaminated areas.

63. The International Agency for Research on Cancer in Lyon, France, has been carrying out studies related to leukaemia, epidemiology and long-term health-related consequences on those affected by the Chernobyl disaster.

64. Ben Gurion University in Israel has been carrying out a research programme on the effects of radiation on a sample of those who had emigrated from the affected zones to Israel since the disaster in 1986 (between 50,000 and 80,000 out of a total number of 400,000 emigrants from three affected countries). It is estimated that between 600 and 1,000 had probably been "liquidators".

IV. FUND-RAISING ACTIVITIES

65. The town of Chernobyl, which is situated at the centre of the contaminated exclusion zone, will in 1993 be commemorating 800 years since its founding. Discussions were held on 7 November with the Director-General of the Ukrainian State Association Pripyat, the entity responsible for the clean-up and monitoring effort in the exclusion zone, concerning possibilities for an international fund-raising event in Kiev during the summer of 1993. The United Nations was invited to join the organizing committee and has agreed to play an active part. Proceeds generated by a concert will be used to support priority projects of primary benefit to children and "liquidators". Other charity performances involving artists from the affected States are also being considered for Western Europe and North America.

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STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND COORDINATION OF EFFORTS TO STUDY, MITIGATE AND MINIMIZE THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE CHERNOBYL DISASTER

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

Subsequent to the preparation of addendum 1 to the report of the Secretary-General on the strengthening of international cooperation and coordination of efforts to study, mitigate and minimize consequences of the Chernobyl accident, further pertinent information was received from the Government of Ukraine. The communication describes measures to eliminate the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster in Ukraine, and is contained in the following annex.

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ANNEX

Information provided by the Government of Ukraine

1. More than six years have elapsed since the tragic night of 26 April which brought the world the news of an event which bears the short, down-to-earth name "the Chernobyl disaster", but which has had extraordinarily complex consequences the effects of which will be with us far into the future.

2. The features of this disaster are becoming ever more clearly apparent. This necessitates the constant application of a whole series of complex measures to eliminate the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. To this end, a special State programme for 1990-1992 has been drawn up, the main responsibility for the implementation of which rests with an organ especially established for the purpose - the Ministry for Protection of the Population from the Consequences of the Accident at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant.

3. One of the priority tasks after the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant was to investigate and assess the radiation status of the territory of Ukraine. For this purpose, an airborne gamma survey was conducted, followed by ground verification of the data obtained. The conduct of this work made it possible to define the boundaries of the radioactive contamination zones in line with the criteria established by the Ukrainian legislation on the Chernobyl problem.

4. For information purposes, maps were published of the radiation status of the territory of Ukraine, with accompanying recommendations for the population.

5. Every year, a detailed survey is conducted and boundaries and levels of radioactive pollution are precisely determined and the quality of food products is simultaneously assessed, the dose levels in residents of these regions are calculated, and measures are carried out to reduce them.

6. A large volume of work has been done on preventing radionuclides from the exclusion zone entering the series of reservoirs on the Dnepr. In 1992 an 11-kilometre dam was built on the Pripyat River, thus permitting a five- to sixfold reduction in caesium and strontium entering the Kiev reservoir.

7. The design of the Scheme of Water Protection Measures in the exclusion zone is nearing completion, and work is under way to develop and manufacture radiometric and dosimetric monitoring instruments for both professional and household use.

8. The state programme provides for a further refinement of the radiation status of the contaminated territories, in the first place in the guaranteed voluntary evacuation zone, and for a detailed picture to be obtained of the distribution of radionuclides in locations where the population is permanently

resident and employed, as well as for determination of the behaviour and migration of radionuclides, including those of the trans-uranium elements (plutonium and americium-241), in the environment. Planned expenditure on radiation monitoring amounts to 649.24 million roubles in 1993-1995 and 565.8 million roubles in 1996-2000.

9. As a result of the Chernobyl disaster, more than 12 per cent of the total area of agricultural land (4.6 million hectares) has been contaminated with caesium-137 to a level of from 0.1 to 15 or more curies/km^2. Seventy-four districts in 11 regions have been the hardest hit. This has led to a substantial reduction in the volume of agricultural production. As a result of the high level of contamination, 123,000 hectares of land have been left fallow. In 1989 the area under grain crops in Ukraine was 122,000 hectares less than in 1986, under potatoes 46,000 hectares less and under long-stalked flax 24,000 hectares less. The number of cattle has been reduced by 99,000 head, of pigs by 15,000 and of sheep by 124,000. Considerable damage has been inflicted on forestry. There are 2.8 million hectares of forest within the radiation contamination zone. Over 44 per cent of their area, the density of contamination with radiocaesium is more than 1 curie/km^2. Operations have been completely halted on 136,000 hectares of timber stands. As a result of the high level of contamination of individual areas, the forestry sector of the economy in the Zhitomir, Kiev, Rovno, Volyn and Chernigov regions has for the past five years suffered a shortfall of about 1 million cubic metres of timber and considerable quantities of forest-growing food products.

10. In order to prevent radionuclides entering food products, the agricultural industry has introduced a comprehensive range of agrochemical, meliorative and agrotechnical measures. Since 1986, the soil has been limed over an area of 423,000 hectares and increased levels of mineral fertilizer have been applied to an area of 725,000 hectares. Mineral fertilizers and chemical meliorative agents have been applied to 12,000 hectares of private agricultural plots.

11. In order to prevent the production and sale of articles exceeding the standards for radioactive contamination, a network of official dosimetric control posts has been established. Within the sites the Ministry of Agriculture of Ukraine maintains 750 laboratories and similar stations and the Ministry of Fishing 40.

12. However, in spite of the measures taken in Ukraine to reduce the level of radionuclides in food products, the problem will continue to exist for a long time in the agrarian and forestry sectors. The regulations adopted in the days of the former Soviet Union on the permissible level of radionuclides in food products (milk - 370 bq per litre, butter - 740 bq per kilogramme, basic vegetable products - 600 bq per kilogramme) do not meet international standards. The consumption of such products leads to internal irradiation and debilitation. The development of agricultural systems ensuring that such products approach international standards is one of the most important tasks to be accomplished in order to overcome the effects of the Chernobyl disaster. It requires significant expenditures of additional resources.

13. For example, in many areas of Ukraine milk is produced in the private sector in unsatisfactory conditions. In 1991-1992 tests were conducted in 2.6 thousand settlements, 86 districts and 11 regions of the country. In 229 settlements, the level of caesium-137 contamination of the milk was above 370 bq per kilogramme. In more than 1,000 settlements, the milk produced had a level of contamination above 37 bq per litre. In some villages of the Rovno region, the level of milk contamination reached 2,852-15,784 bq per litre.

14. In the forest districts of Polesya an important part of the diet of the population consists of forest products. As a result of the Chernobyl disaster, these showed a significant degree of radioactive contamination. Thus, in the Rakitnoy district of the Rovno region the level of caesium-137 contamination of fresh mushrooms was from 80 to 2,324 bq per kilogramme, of dried mushrooms from 3,600 to 4,000 bq per kilogramme, of berries from 700 to 2,500, of game 3,490 bq per kilogramme. Similar levels were found in the forest products of almost all the contaminated districts of Volyn, Zhitomir, Rovno, Kiev, Chernigov and other regions.

15. The nature and extent of the accident have raised, in an acute form, the question of protective measures. Unfortunately, however, they have not always been timely, comprehensive or effective.

16. Between 1986 and 1991 the following protective measures were taken:

- In the first two months after the accident, 92,600 persons were evacuated from the most contaminated areas. As of 1 January 1992, more than 163,000 persons had been resettled or had left voluntarily;

- In May 1986, more than 5 million persons, including 1.6 million children, received iodine prophylaxis;

- In order to keep contaminated waste from the reactor out of the Dnepr River, 131 hydroelectrical installations were constructed in the 30-kilometre zone;

- The site of, and many settlements surrounding, the Chernobyl nuclear power plant were deactivated;

- Measures were taken to improve the well-being of the population of the affected districts through the provision of environmentally sound foodstuffs;

- Measures were taken to restructure the agricultural production of the affected districts, and 131,000 hectares of agricultural land and 140,000 hectares of forest land were taken out of production;

- Five hundred and seventy artesian wells were dug and the road, water main and water supply systems were extended by hundreds of kilometres, etc.;

- The legal and social rights of the affected population were safeguarded.

17. At present, 18,200 families (about 60,000 persons) from the compulsory evacuation zone and 11,400 families from the voluntary evacuation zone must be resettled. As of 1 January 1992, according to the data of the Ministry of Statistics of Ukraine, 27,100 families had been evacuated and were receiving social assistance. Priority development of the social welfare sector is planned for the affected areas. Expenditures on capital investment in construction related to the elimination of the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant will amount to 23,463.75 million roubles in 1993-1995, and 8,919.08 million roubles in 1996-2000. Expenditures on capital investment for the infrastructural development of the districts suffering from radioactive contamination will amount to 14,099.71 million roubles in 1993-1995 and 16,597.9 million roubles in 1996-2000.

18. Currently more than 2 million people are living in rural areas within the territory contaminated as a result of the Chernobyl catastrophe. For these people, firewood and peat are the principal sources of energy for heating and other purposes.

19. A special project to supply natural gas on a priority basis has been set up in order to provide the rural districts affected with ecologically sound sources of energy. It is estimated that the project will take two to two and a half years to complete and will depend upon deliveries of the latest foreign equipment and high-productivity technology. For that purpose, expenditures in the order of US$ 23.5 million will be required.

20. A solution to the public health problem is an important aspect of the effort to eliminate the consequences of the accident. At the present time a radiation dosage pass system has been established for settlements within the contaminated areas. As a result of the Chernobyl accident, additional body burdens of over 5 mSv are being received by residents in 57 settlements in the Kiev, Zhitomir, Rovno, Chernigov and Volyn regions, of 1.0 to 5 mSv in 783 settlements, and of 0.05-1 mSv in 377 settlements. A portion of the afflicted population has been included in the national Register, which at present contains data for 347,619 people.

21. The Register database contains the results of over 150,000 direct measurements of thyroid irradiation doses, 40,000 irradiation dose measurements, 200,000 results of measurements of radioactive Caesium content, and 150,000 radioimmune studies. According to the results of the measurements, 14,000 children received thyroid irradiation doses of greater than 200 SG. An annual analysis of the data shows that among clean-up workers with records in the Register who had received radiation doses greater than 25 cSv, there was a notable trend towards increased numbers of oncological illnesses. According to data from clinics, 39.8 per cent of the first group surveyed, 29 per cent of a second group, 32 per cent of a third group and 40 per cent of a fourth group were healthy.

22. Since 1986, the number of new cases of thyroid cancer has risen two and one half times. The greatest number of new cases was noted in the period 1990-1991 among children in the Kiev, Zhitomir and Chernigov regions.

23. In order to provide a solution to problems relating to the improvement of the health of victims of the Chernobyl disaster, a special programme has been elaborated, for the practical implementation of which the Government is providing an allocation of approximately 3 billion roubles. However, one of the main obstacles to its implementation is the absence of the necessary diagnostic equipment and apparatus for the study of thyroid and other endocrine glands, blood and blood-producing organs, the immune system and genetic defects.

24. In this connection, Ukraine is counting on mutually advantageous international cooperation which would include the provision by the Ukrainian side of raw materials, personnel, production sites and financial resources, and by the international community of the relevant technology and equipment. In contrast to traditional assistance in the form of finished products, this type of cooperation could be significantly more effective.

25. There are good internal possibilities in Ukraine for the development of mutually advantageous cooperation in the area of pharmacology.

26. The Chernobyl disaster presented Ukraine with a multitude of complex problems. These included the problem of the 30-kilometre exclusion zone, in which there are approximately 800 storage tanks for radioactive waste. Their volume exceeds 1.2 million cubic metres and their total activity, according to estimates, amounts to 3.8 x 10 curies. They require attention and will have to be neutralized in the future.

27. There is also the problem of the "Ukrytie" site, the security of which is today reliably guaranteed for a period of not more than seven years. The total activity of the radioactive waste within the "Ukrytie" site exceeds 20 million curies. With a view to resolving the problem of the No. 4 reactor block of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, the Government of Ukraine announced an international competition for a project for the transformation of the "Ukrytie" site into an environmentally safe system. The execution of the project requires the assistance of the international community, since its cost cannot be met from the budget of Ukraine alone.

28. One of the major measures aimed at resolving the problems of Chernobyl is the carrying out of the relevant scientific research work, which Ukraine has fully taken upon itself.

29. The programme of scientific safeguards for the coming years provides for the establishment of the material base and a professional training institute in Ukraine, the existence of which would make it possible for Ukraine to resolve independently problems relating to the biological effects of small doses of radiation, the search for new means, preventive measures, the diagnosis and cure of radiation sickness, radiation monitoring and agriculture and forestry in the contaminated areas, and the solution of the social, environmental, legal and many other problems arising as a result of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant.

30. It has become increasingly clear over time that the global effects of the Chernobyl disaster require effective international cooperation if they are to be solved. The people of Ukraine welcomed with great appreciation the assistance provided over the past few years by the international community.

31. The further development of international cooperation, the combined efforts of scientists and specialists from various countries, the use of the experience that has been accumulated and the achievements of modern world scientific and engineering thinking could make a significant contribution to the solution of the unprecedentedly complex problems of protecting people and the natural environment from the destructive effects of the Chernobyl accident.